

most decorated unit for its size and length of service in American military history. Among their numerous awards, the Japanese American soldiers of World War II earned 21 Medals of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 559 Silver Stars, 4,000 bronze stars, nine (9) Presidential Unit Citations, and 9,486 Purple Hearts. The 442nd saw the highest percent of casualties of any unit in the Army, earning it the nickname "Purple Heart Battalion."

Nisei men fought for the U.S. and its allies across Europe in many key battles. The 442nd waged eight major campaigns in France, Germany, and Italy. Most notably, the 442nd led a heroic drive into enemy lines to free the surviving 211 members of a Texas unit who were trapped by the Germans in the rescue of the Lost Battalion. The governor of Texas would later name them "Honorary Texans" for their actions. Additionally, the Japanese American soldiers liberated towns such as Bruyeres, Biffontaine, and Belvedere. They also freed Holocaust victims from one of the Dachau concentration camps in Germany.

Japanese Americans also served with great distinction in the Pacific Theater in the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Service, MIS. Through their command of the Japanese language, they greatly facilitated Allied war efforts and the MIS is credited with shortening the war in the Pacific by at least two years.

As a Japanese American who spent part of my childhood in Amache internment camp in Colorado, I am humbled by the perseverance of these Nisei soldiers through the difficult struggle against racial prejudices and discrimination that they endured both during and after the war. Having valiantly fought to liberate the world from tyranny and oppression while their own families were imprisoned back home, the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service are true American heroes. The unrelenting patriotism of these veterans, now in their late 80s and early 90s, paved the way for reconciliation and redress, and the full racial integration of the Armed Forces thereafter.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 1055 to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, in recognition of their patriotism and dedicated service during World War II.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD SCOTT ALDEN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. I rise today to recognize and honor one of those individuals: Richard "Dick" Scott Alden. Dick passed away at his home on Monday, September 20, 2010. He will be deeply missed.

Dick Alden was born July 27, 1931, in Hibbing, Minnesota and is the son of Alvin and Verne Alden. As a young man his family

moved to Pasadena, California. Dick was a student in the Pasadena school system and upon graduation, served honorably in the United States Air Force.

After his service in the Air Force, Dick earned his college degree from Woodbury Business School in Los Angeles. He began working for Union Oil and later moved his young family to Riverside acquiring what eventually became Empire Oil Company.

During his active life in Riverside, Dick, along with building Empire Oil into a major petroleum and chemical distributor, devoted his time and resources to a number of community-based charitable organizations. He also was active in Republican politics and various local sports programs. Dick was known for his generosity to many charitable organizations and those who know him remember his sense of humor.

Mr. Alden is survived by his son Eric Alden of Huntington Beach and wife Martha; Daughter Michelle Fisher of Aliso Viejo; Daughter-in-law Ann Alden of Riverside; five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Also surviving are Dick's sister Barbara Meza of San Clemente and a brother Gayle Alden of Auburn, Washington. Dick was preceded in death by his son Scott, who played an important role in the building of Empire Oil, and by his granddaughter Jennifer Stevens. Dick was especially impacted by the death of his son and granddaughter, two individuals that were remarkable in their own right. Dick will be buried in Olivewood Memorial Park, the same cemetery where Scott and Jennifer were laid to rest.

On October 2, 2010, a memorial service celebrating Dick's extraordinary life will be held at the Salvation Army Chapel in Riverside. Dick will always be remembered for his incredible work ethic, generosity, love of family, and sense of humor. His dedication to his family and community, especially the Salvation Army, are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Dick's family and friends; although Dick may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

GUARDIANS OF FREEDOM ACT OF 2010

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today, I rise on behalf of all of America's National Guard and proudly introduce the Guardians of Freedom Act of 2010—a bill to elevate the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to a position on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The National Guard is one of our nation's longest standing institutions, empowered by Congress and providing to the states a highly trained and well equipped force to protect life and property.

Over the course of its nearly four hundred year history, the National Guard has remained a dual state-Federal force, providing security on the home front and fighting threats to our Nation and our freedoms all over the globe.

Our National Guardsmen are true American patriots. Theirs is a proud story of tradition,

service, sacrifice, and uncommon acts of heroism. They make each of us so very proud.

Aristotle said, "Men acquire a particular quality by constantly acting a particular way . . . you become just, by performing just actions . . . brave by performing brave actions."

The American people owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our 362,192 men and women members of the National Guard in service to these great United States. These extraordinary individuals maintain the Guard's multi-mission role—providing nearly 33 percent of America's combat power globally. Yet, simultaneously and with great skill, from approximately 3,400 community-based armories they serve their fellow citizens in defense of our homeland, and in support to states and local civil authorities and emergency response needs.

For decades there has been a significant evolution in the missions and capabilities of the National Guard. As Major General Allen E. Tackett, the Adjutant General of the West Virginia National Guard so appropriately states, "Not since World War II has the Guard been so vital to the overseas mission and not since the founding of our Nation has the Guard been so vital to the defense of our homeland."

Madam Speaker, for 34 years I have been privileged to represent the people of southern West Virginia, and it is with humble sincerity I say, our West Virginia National Guard is a model example of the training, commitment to excellence and professional dedication to America's defense.

From the home front to the front lines, we call upon our National Guard to fulfill missions of public safety and security on and between our borders here at home, and send them to foreign lands to combat terrorism abroad. They are among the first called to aid in a domestic disaster and have often times been the last to leave a battlefield.

This year the National Guard marks its 374th birthday. Formed as colonial militias, the new colonies in North America depended upon the Guard to protect fellow citizens from Indian attack, foreign invaders, and later to help achieve our independence. Recognizing the militia's role for the newly formed United States, the Framers of the Constitution empowered Congress to provide for training and equipping the militias.

Since founding and through an historic journey of "call outs" and stand out missions—from the bayou communities ravaged by Hurricane Katrina to the frontiers of freedom during the Cold War, our National Guard has seen its Federal mission change.

Our National Guard has a duty and commitment to the citizens and communities of the states in which these soldiers call "family" and "home." It is a military service tradition that has been challenged by long-term and multiple deployments to front lines in two active theaters, and in support of missions in all corners of the globe as directed by our Nation's Commander in Chief.

Therefore, it is not only our duty it is an absolute necessity, that Congress take action to elevate the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to a position on the Joint Chiefs of Staff to serve as an advocate and liaison for the National Guard of each State to inform of all actions that could affect their Federal or State missions.

In a Nation such as ours, it is a stunning reality that today we ask our brothers and sisters, husbands, and wives to serve around the